

What is claimed is:

1. A method of removing a coating from a substrate, comprising the steps of impinging the coating with a pressurized fluid stream comprising a mixture of a liquid and an abrasive, while moving at least one of the fluid stream and the substrate relative to the other thereof to fully expose the coating to the fluid stream.
2. A method of removing a coating from a substrate according to claim 1, wherein the liquid is water.
3. A method of removing a coating from a substrate according to claim 1, wherein the coating is diffusion or metallurgically bonded to the substrate.
4. A method of removing a coating from a substrate according to claim 1, wherein the coating is a metallic material.
5. A method of removing a coating from a substrate according to claim 1, wherein the coating is a ceramic material.
6. A method of removing a coating from a substrate according to claim 1, wherein the coating is harder than the substrate.
7. A method of removing a coating from a substrate according to claim 1, wherein the coating comprises a metallic layer and a ceramic layer.
8. A method of removing a coating from a substrate according to claim 1, wherein the moving step comprises conforming the moving of the at least one of the fluid stream and the substrate to a surface configuration of the substrate for maintaining a consistent spatial orientation between the fluid stream and the substrate.
9. A method of removing a coating from a substrate according to claim 1, wherein the moving step comprises controlling the speed of the moving.
10. A method of removing a coating from a substrate according to claim 1, wherein the impinging step comprises regulating a mixture ratio between the water and the abrasive.
11. A method of removing a coating from a substrate according to claim 1, wherein, following the removal of the coating from the substrate by the abrasive liquid jet impingement, impinging the substrate with a non-abrasive liquid jet to clean the substrate of any residual contaminants, including any residual abrasive material.